

March 23, 1948.

Dr. Stanley Peat,
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The University,
Birmingham, England.

Dear Dr. Peat,

I have just read your review article "The Chemistry of Anhydro Sugars" which appeared in Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry, V.II. Your brief comment on p. 54 concerning the possible biological rôle was of special interest since I have been working on the genetic control of the metabolism of galactose and galactosides in Escherichia coli. So far as I have been able to ascertain, no attempt has ever been made to investigate the biological availability of such derivatives. In connection with our current research program, I am prepared to test such derivatives on a variety of metabolic mutants of Escherichia coli. The main problem is to acquire samples of these compounds, in amounts not less than 200 mg. each, and preferably at least 1 g. I am writing to enquire whether you have yourself prepared any of the glucose or galactose derivatives that would be of interest in this connection, and, if so, whether you might be willing to transmit such samples to me. In addition to the compounds which you can best name yourself that might be involved in the glucose-galactose conversion, I would be interested also in the (1-6) galactosan in order to determine whether it can be split by ~~any of the~~ lactases of any of the several mutant strains. I realize that other workers have published these preparations, but it seemed wisest to enquire first at a single source. Your help would be greatly appreciated.